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ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

dpm

MAR 5 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

SUBJECT: Ship Support for DISCOVERER Program

Reference your message 20708, 13 February 1959 expressing concern over the unresolved problem of providing necessary ship support for the DISCOVERER Program.

The problem is now resolved to the extent that the Bureau of Aeronautics has now been authorized to proceed with the modification of two VC-2 ships. $1.6 million has been provided for initiation of work with a total authorization not to exceed $2.3 million of ARPA funds to be provided after receipt and approval of a development and funding plan.

Based upon earlier estimates of five months lead time for conversion, it may be late July or early August before beneficial availability of these ships. Hopefully, some reduction in this conversion time may be possible. In the event this is not possible I would appreciate your consideration of an extension of the destroyer support beyond 7 July, as necessary, to support the firing schedule.

I recognize the undesirability of use of combatant forces for R&D support but hope that other commitments will not preclude such support for the relatively short time period involved.

/s/ Roy W. Johnson

Roy W. Johnson
Director

cc: Sec/AF
Cs(3)/AF
AFBMD
AFDAT
AFCGM

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

Eq = 1020281

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